

From: Rob Hranac
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:36am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to inform you of my strong objection to the proposed Microsoft settlement. The current terms of the settlement, which favor conduct remedies over structural remedies, will not curtail Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior. As past agreements with Microsoft have shown, conduct remedies quickly become ineffective in a fast changing industry and against such a determined and dominant company.

Only a structural separation of the operating systems unit from the rest of the company will take away Microsoft's ability and will to use its monopolistic operating system advantage to the detriment of competitors in all industries and, therefore, the computing world as a whole. The settlement, as it stands, will significantly weaken the U.S. software industry by allowing a single monopolist to continue to stifle innovation on nearly all important computing fronts. At a time when competition from abroad is greater than ever, this is unacceptable.

As a citizen, consumer, and shareholder in the United States, I, therefore, strongly object to the weak terms of the settlement on the grounds that it will significantly hurt our economic system and universally harm U.S. consumers. I am stunned that the government of the United States spent several years winning this complex and important decision, only to concede to Microsoft rather than effecting positive change for consumers and shareholders and I ask you to reconsider. My vote in future elections will only go to those who strive to create a competitive marketplace and this settlement does not do that.

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